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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

There are disclosed methods and compositions for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of tumors and cancers in mammals, for example, humans, utilizing the hepsin gene, which are amplified ovarian, and/or prostate, and/or breast, and/or lung cancer genes. The hepsin gene, its expressed protein products and antibodies are used diagnostically or as targets for cancer therapy; they are also used to identify compounds and reagents useful in cancer diagnosis, prevention, and therapy.